

separate prior art references each disclose separate elements of a claim, the challenger must also show some teaching, suggestion, or incentive in the prior art that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to make the claimed combination. See, e.g., Ashland Oil, Inc. v. Delta Resins & Refractories, Inc., 776 F.2d 281, 297 n.24, 304-05 (Fed. Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 475 U.S. 1017 (1986). In determining obviousness, there must be some reason other than hindsight for selectively combining the prior art references to render the claimed invention obvious. See, e.g., Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Feil, 774 F.2d 1132, 1143 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

The Examiner characterizes Mulach as providing "a generally planar baffle plate (25)." Solid, rigid plates of the type taught by Mulach are known as outside space blocks and, as in Mulach, can have basically the same configuration as the core laminations. These outside space blocks are placed between the stator end flange and the end laminations of the stator core. Outside space blocks are common industry practice on most power generators for the purpose of end cooling a mechanical stability. Radial vents 32 are what is referred to in the industry as an inside space block, which are typically placed at intervals in the laminated core to space the adjacent lamination packs apart, but as shown in Mulach Figure 5, may be disposed between the outer space block and the laminations. The Mulach invention concerns venting conventional outside space blocks by employing radial grooves in them instead of the common industry practice of being non-grooved, with vent passages being defined between circumferentially adjacent space blocks.

The invention disclosed in this application also provides and claims outside space blocks. However, applicant's invention is not the provision of outside space blocks. Rather the invention provides, in addition to outside space blocks, a generally planar baffle plate that is secured to the end flange component to extend radially inwardly from the end flange component. The novel baffle plate provided in accordance with the invention guides the outside space block coolant gas all the way to the stator core inner diameter to effectively eliminate hot-air recalculation so that the outside space block

cooling air can effectively cool the first package 28. The location of the baffle plate in accordance with invention with respect to the outside space block and the stator end flange as depicted in Figure 2 and clearly outlined in claim 1 and even more specifically in claim 3 wherein it is stated that the baffle plate is secured between the space blocks and the end flange component.

The addition of a baffle plate, as disclosed and claimed by applicant, is not in any way disclosed or suggested in Mulach. Indeed, in contrast to the invention claimed, Mulach provides no baffle plate between his outside space blocks and the end flange component. The Examiner's attention is directed in this regard to Figure 2, wherein the outside space block 25 is illustrated as including grooves 31 (Figure 4) disposed between the laminations 18 and the end flange 22. Thus, the concept of a planar baffle plate between an outside space block and the end flange component is nowhere suggested in Mulach.

The Examiner's further reliance on Shartrand does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference noted above. In this regard, Shartrand discloses a reverse flow cooling scheme but does not teach or suggest, in a generator having a plurality of space blocks mounted between the stacked laminations and an end flange component, the addition of a baffle plate secured to the end flange component, as disclosed and claimed by applicant, whereby cooling air flowing between the stacked laminations and the end flange is directed to the radially inner surface of the stator structure.


In view of the foregoing reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

REN et al  
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Respectfully submitted,

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